MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

2 MARCH 1981

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Islamic Good Offices Delegation--The Islamic Conference good offices delegation to mediate the Iran-Iraq conflict arrived in Tehran on 28 February. In a speech to the members of the delegation on the following day, a recording of which was carried by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni told them that instead of issuing Islamic slogans, they should adhere to Islamic "intellect." Criticizing the "nonsense" spoken by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn at the At-Ta'if Islamic summit, Khomeyni called on the delegation members to empty their ears of such propaganda against Iran and find out for themselves the facts about Iraq's aggression against Iran. Urging the delegation to send representatives to see Iran's graveyards and the refugees and destruction caused by the war, Khomeyni said that peace between "Islam and blasphemy" is "meaningless." He called on the Islamic mediators to put the "aggressor" on trial and demand that Iraq withdaw its troops from Iran. Once the aggression has ended, Khomeyni added, an "international mission," formed "somewhere," can come to Iran to investigate the crimes that have been committed. Khomeyni called on the Islamic nations to "sit in judgment," even to the extent of holding referenda in Iran and Iraq over whether the people accept their governments. Following the meeting, Tehran radio reported that delegation member Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, described the talks as "very good" and said he is "optimistic."

Earlier, the delegation met with President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr and other members of the Supreme Defense Council. Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Khamene'i, Khomeyni's representative on the council, told Tehran radio that during the meeting Bani-Sadr said that the "aggressor" must be "recognized and punished" and that all Iraqi soldiers must be withdrawn from Iranian territory before Iran accepts any cease-fire. Khamene'i pointed out that Guinea's President Sekou Toure, the head of the delegation, stated that Iran should make more precise and clear-cut proposals. In another radio interview, Khamene'i said that during a further meeting between the two sides, Toure stressed "insistently" that Iran should help restore peace, leaving any investigation to identify and punish the aggressor until after the end of the war. Toure again insisted that Iran offer a "concrete proposal," Khamene'i continued, while the Iranian side held to Khomeyni's proposal that after an immediate Iraqi withdrawal a specially appointed Islamic delegation should identify and punish the aggressor.

Tehran radio also reported that Pakistani President Ziaul Haq, a delegation member, held private talks with Bani-Sadr and that Yasir 'Arafat met separately with Khamene'i. In a press conference, reported by the radio, the delegation spokesman, Islamic Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti, said that after its visit to Iraq the delegation will meet to analyze the views of both sides, following which it will return to Tehran. The delegation subsequently arrived in Baghdad, INA reported, where it began talks with President Saddam Husayn and other Iraqi officials.

Saddam Husayn on Cease-Fire--INA reported that in remarks made on 28 February President Saddam Husayn reiterated Iraq's readiness to cease fire and negotiate provided the Iranians respect Iraq's rights, sovereignty and dignity as well as the Arab nation's dignity, sovereignty, security and independence. Iraq's willingness to cease fire does not stem from fear, he stressed, but from "our care for our people."

Military Situation--Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communiques, carried by INA, reported low-level activity over the weekend, claiming successes in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region. Recent Tehran radio reports have stressed that Iranian artillery has been pounding positions inside Iraq, including Diyarah garrison and the oil pipelines of Fao refinery.

Iran

Vacant Ministerial Posts--Tehran radio carried a statement by President Bani-Sadr that strongly criticized a plan recently submitted to the Majlis for the appointment of supervisors over currently vacant ministries. The plan would have "dangerous consequences for the country," Bani-Sadr warned, and "ignores" the nation's votes for the president. The Council of Ministers should coordinate with the president, not oppose him, Bani-Sadr went on. Depriving the president of his legal rights, he stressed, is not the way to resolve lack of agreement. The president indicated that the dispute can be resolved if Ayatollah Khomeyni's recently proposed "solution" for the problem of vacant ministerial posts is adopted. Although Bani-Sadr did not specify what this would entail, he revealed that he has been writing to Khomeyni every day and is waiting for him to "take steps." AFP reported that the bill Bani-Sadr took exception to was presented to the Majlis by Islamic Republican Party deputies on 25 February and would, if passed, give Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i temporary responsibility for the three vacant portfolios of foreign affairs, commerce and economy and finance.

Telegram Controversy--The pro-Bani-Sadr newspaper ENQELAB-E ESLAMI reported on 18 February that a telegram sent by Bani-Sadr to Hojjat ol-Eslam Lahuti concerning an incident in Kuchesfahan was incompletely broadcast by Iran's radio and television network. According to the head of the president's secretariat, cited by the newspaper, Voice and Vision chief Larijani said that he would not broadcast the first sentence of the telegram because it would cause trouble. Bani-Sadr's representative later told Larijani that the network should not broadcast presidential messages in "mutilated form" if it is to maintain its "dignity and status."

Gulf Affairs

Reaction to Thatcher Statement--Gulf newspapers have reacted critically to statements made in the United States by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher concerning possible British cooperation with the United States in deploying forces to guarantee security in the Gulf region. Saudi Arabia's AN-NADWAH, cited by SPA, said the states of the region totally reject all attempts to interfere in the region's affairs or to impose "foreign hegemony" there. An editorial in the UAE newspaper AL-BAYAN emphasized that Gulf security is the "sole responsibility" of the Gulf people. Bahrain's AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ saw in Thatcher's remarks the beginning of Western coordination to impose "military sovereignty" over the Gulf region, which would "inevitably" be followed by political interference. The Aden-based anti-Oman Voice of the PFLO radio cited criticism of Thatcher's remarks by three UAE newspapers, saying they appealed for a serious Arab stand against her statement.

Kuwaiti Prime Minister--Kuwait radio broadcast a decree by Amir Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah appointing heir apparent Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah as the chairman of the Council of Ministers and requesting him to nominate Cabinet members. The heir apparent thus continues to hold the prime ministership as he did before the recent elections.

Saudi Arabia

Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has described world media coverage of the possible sale of 300 German Leopard tanks to his country as "exaggerated," since Saudi Arabia has not yet had any "official talks" with the FRG Government over the issue. In an interview with the West German magazine DER SPIEGEL, reported by SPA, Prince Fahd also confirmed that Saudi Arabia wants to buy the tanks, although he added that the figures already mentioned are "incorrect" because they can be fixed only after the possibility of a sale has been determined. Saudi Arabia has no wish to "embarrass" its friends in Germany, the prince added, but if it cannot buy arms in the FRG, "we will buy from somewhere else." Regarding Gulf security, Prince Fahd said that the Gulf countries need weapons to defend themselves but do not need other countries to participate in their defense. He added that Saudi Arabia neither wants nor has the capability to enter into military alliances.

Egyptian-Israeli Relations

Israeli Report, Egyptian Reaction--An Israeli Foreign Ministry report on the normalization process with Egypt noted an Egyptian "tendency, particularly at the subpresidential level," to slow down the progress of normalization. The report, quoted in the 27 February issue of the Jerusalem POST, added that the Egyptian attitude toward the peace process is "fluctuating between passivity and opposition." According to MENA, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said in reaction to the Israeli report that Egypt has "adhered fully" to the normalization process. He went on to list Egyptian actions implementing normalization and charged that it is Israel that has taken "certain attitudes" that "conflict" with the process.

Rejection of Talks Proposal--Citing the Egyptian weekly magazine MAY, AFP reported that Egypt has rejected an Israeli proposal to resume talks before 26 May on Palestinian autonomy because Egypt does not want to "influence" the upcoming Israeli general election.

Talks on Sinai Force--Egyptian Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Usamah al-Baz met with U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Michael Sterner on 28 February and 1 March, MENA reported, to discuss the formation of a multinational force to supervise Israel's final withdrawal from the Sinai. Al-Baz said that Egypt does not rule out the participation of any country in the force, and he added that the United States is basically responsible for its formation. Sterner said that while Israeli and Egyptian views on the subject differ, there are no "basic" difficulties or obstacles, MENA reported.

Egypt

In a speech in 10 Ramadan city, broadcast by Cairo radio, President Anwar as-Sadat said that those who try to portray Egypt as an unstable, undemocratic state are "sick." He added that there is no disagreement on political policies in Egypt except in "sick minds." Warning that journalists who "fabricate battles" between the state and its citizens must bear responsibility for their actions, As-Sadat stated that there is no room for communists in "formulating public opinion."

Inter-Arab Affairs

Beirut Car Attack--Following a 27 February INA report that two Iraqi embassy employees in Beirut were killed in their car by unidentified assailants, AFP reported that the hitherto unknown "martyr 'Ali Nasir group" claimed responsibility for the attack, which was aimed at the Iraqi ambassador. A subsequent statement by the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut, reported by INA, disclaimed knowledge of the group but warned against "suspect delegations" that have recently visited Lebanon under the protection of their allies in the "Lebanese arena."

Syrian-Jordanian Relations--According to QNA, Syrian Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad told the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD that Syria's relations with Jordan will improve. The two countries, he said, are now seeking to heal the rift between them. The minister also revealed that the Muslim Brotherhood, which Syria claims Jordan supports, has assassinated 300 Ba'th Party members and government officials as well as Soviet experts and civilians. An unattributed 27 February Amman radio commentary stressed the role of 'Alawites in the recent alleged Syrian plot against Prime Minister Mudar Badran. The radio indicated, however, that the "renegade group" of 'Alawites led by President Hafiz al-Asad and his brother Rif'at al-Asad is not representative of the 'Alawite community as a whole.

PLO

Voice of Palestine radio reported that the head of the PLO delegation to the 26th CPSU Congress, Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi, has said that the congress final

statement on the Middle East should be amended to stipulate the establishment of a sovereign and independent Palestinian state.

Libya

France will not deliver 10 missile-launching patrol boats ordered by Libya in 1977, Paris radio reported, because of Libya's intervention in Chad.

Afghanistan

TASS reported that Prime Minister Babrak Karmal held talks in the Kremlin on 27 February with Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev.

FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 040 2 March 1981

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Karmal Addresses 25 Feb CPSU Congress Session [cross-reference] C 1
60th Anniversary of Treaty With USSR Commemorated C 1
Exchange of Greetings C 1
Ratezbad Speech C 2
Kabul NEW TIMES Editorial C 3
AFP: Afghanistan To Open Consulate in Tashkent C 4
AFP: Soviet Supply Routes Into Afghanistan Changed C 4
2,000 Khalq, Army, Civil Service Members Arrested [BBC] C 4
Rafi' Attends GDR Army Anniversary Celebration C 5
News Exchange Agreement Signed With Hungary C 5

INDIA

Highlights of 1981-1982 Budget Reported E 1

PAKISTAN

Agha Shahi Interviewed on Relations With India F 1
Opposition Specifies Measures Against Regime F 1
Antiregime Measures Unheeded F 2

IRAN

Bani-Sadr Scores Majlis Bill Favoring Raja'i I 1
Appeal to Khomeyni I 1
Council Discusses War, Upcoming Mediation Talks I 2
Khamene'i on Session I 2
Islamic Mediation Delegation Holds Talks in Tehran I 3
Arrival of Committee I 3
Hani al-Hasan Arrives I 3
New PLO Ambassador Arrives I 3
First Round of Talks I 3
Meeting With Bani-Sadr I 4
Khamene'i on Talks I 5
Meeting With Khomeyni I 6
Khomeyni Speech I 7
'Arafat on Khomeyni Meeting I 10
Second Round of Talks I 11
AFP on Meetings I 11
Habib Chatti Interview I 12
Further on Chatti Comments I 12
Bani-Sadr Interview I 13
Agha Shahi on Delegation I 13
Mujahidin Confer With 'Arafat I 14
Delegation Departs for Baghdad I 14

Bani-Sadr Spokesman on 'Mutilated' Message I 15
[ENQELAB-E ESLAMI 18 Feb]
Khomeyni Receives Prosecutor General 2 Mar I 15
Raja'i Returns to Tehran From Khorramabad I 15
Armed Forces Join Staff Communiques 419, 420 I 16
419: 27 Feb Skirmishes I 16
420: Fighting in South, West I 16
Radio Iran: Sugar, Meat Bought From South Africa I 17

KARMAL ADDRESSES 25 FEB CPSU CONGRESS SESSION

For the text of the speech by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Revolution Council and premier of the DRA, at the evening session of the 26th CPSU Congress on 25 February in Moscow, as carried by Kabul Radio, see page 26 of the supplement to the 27 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT entitled "Proceedings of the 26th CPSU Congress," No 39, Supp 004.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF TREATY WITH USSR COMMEMORATED

Exchange of Greetings

LD010600 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 1 Mar 81

[Text] Kabul, 28 Feb (BAKHTAR)--On the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the treaty of friendship between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, which was signed on February 28, 1921, Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC, chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister of DRA has sent congratulatory telegrammes to Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and Nikolay Tikhonov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of USSR.

Babrak Karmal has extended most sincere and fraternal congratulations to Leonid Brezhnev and Nikolay Tikhonov on the occasion of the significant date--the 60th anniversary of the signing of the treaty of friendship between Afghanistan and Soviet Russia of February 28, 1921. Babrak Karmal writes, the Afghan-Soviet treaty of friendship, which was the first inter-states treaty with the independent Afghanistan on the basis of equal rights, is a bright manifestation of solidarity and fraternal policy of the communist party and the first Soviet state in the world, under the guidance of the great Lenin, with the people in the east who are fighting for their national freedom and is indicative of ties between our states and peoples toward the development of all sided relations based on friendship, equal rights, fruitful cooperation and good neighbourliness. He writes that after the victorious accomplishment in Afghanistan of the April national democratic revolution, Soviet-Afghan relations not only further deepened and broadened, but were also elevated to a qualitatively new level. The all-round development of these fraternal relations is a vivid demonstration of the tremendous significance of the history-making Afghan-Soviet treaty of 1921, a logical follow-up to and a result of which has been the treaty of friendship, goodneighbourliness and cooperation between our countries of December 5, 1978. Babrak Karmal expressed firm confidence that the relations of friendship and fraternity between our parties, states and peoples will further develop and strengthen for the benefit of the peoples of our two countries, in the interests of ensuring peace, security and social progress on earth.

Soviet leaders Leonid Brezhnev and Nikolay Tikhonov in a telegramme to Babrak Karmal conveyed sincere and cordial congratulations on this occasion. The Soviet Union resolutely sides with the Afghan people in its struggle against aggressive and subversive actions by the enemies of the revolution and by reactionaries, against interference from the outside in the internal affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, for a political settlement. We are expressing firm confidence that the relations of friendship and cooperation between our two parties, states and peoples will further steadily broaden and strengthen, for the benefit of the peoples of our countries, for strengthening universal peace, the Soviet leaders point out.

Ratezbad Speech

LD010006 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Text] On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Afghan-Soviet friendship treaty, a meeting was held this afternoon in Nendare Hall in Kabul by the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society.

PDPA Central Committee Politburo member, Revolution Council Vice President and Deputy Prime Minister Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand; some members of the Politburo, Central Committee, Revolution Council, Presidium, Council of Ministers, and the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society; some party cadres; members and the charges d'affaires of the USSR Embassy; and the heads and members of the diplomatic corps of friendly countries in Kabul participated in this meeting.

Dr Anahita Ratezbad, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and the Revolution Council and chairman of the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society, the Democratic Women of Afghanistan Organization and the DRA Peace, Friendship and Solidarity Organization, in her speech congratulated the brave and toiling people of Afghanistan and the people, party and Government of the USSR on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the signing of the treaty of friendship between the two countries.

Dr Anahita Ratezbad spoke of the historical and traditional friendship between Afghanistan and the USSR, saying: Today we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the signing of the friendship and good-neighbor relations treaty between our beloved homeland, revolutionary Afghanistan, and the land of the soviets, this great and traditional friend of Afghanistan. We celebrate this friendship despite a 60-year lapse and the various ups and downs that have occurred in the life of man. This great friendship, which is a model and an inspiration, has not only survived but appears deeper and more glorious every day.

Dr Anahita Ratezbad referred to the friendly and unselfish assistance of the friendly USSR and said: Sixty years of Afghan-USSR relations, the friendship and good-neighbor relations treaty, and the two countries' reciprocal cooperation are evidence of this undeniable fact. The strengthening and expansion of these relations benefit and, regardless of events and circumstances, will continue to benefit both countries.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that subsequently, Charge d'Affaires (?Alekseyev) of the USSR Embassy in Kabul spoke about the friendly relations between Russia and Afghanistan during the last 9 centuries and said: The present relationship between the USSR and Afghanistan is a friendly and fraternal one. The USSR has given all-round assistance to the DRA, in accordance with the principles of international solidarity and the contents of friendly treaties between the two countries, in order to repulse and [word indistinct] the aggressions of imperialist and reactionary countries from Afghanistan.

At the end of the ceremony, a film on the visit to the USSR by a high-ranking DRA party and government delegation was shown, and Afghan and Soviet artists presented a joint musical performance in honor of the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Afghan-Soviet friendship treaty.

Kabul NEW TIMES Editorial

LD020640 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0420 GMT 2 Mar 81

[Text] Kabul, 2 Mar (BAKHTAR)--Kabul NEW TIMES devotes its editorial to the 60th anniversary of the Afghan-Soviet treaty of friendship and writes:

The founders of the Afghan-Soviet friendship treaty are in fact Amanullah Khan, the ruler of Afghanistan, and Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, the leader of the first state of workers and peasants in the Soviet Russia.

Following the proclamation of independence of Afghanistan from the yoke of oppression of British colonialism, the ruler of Afghanistan extended a hand of friendship to Lenin the great. Lenin, in his turn, pressed with all warmth his hand and attached great importance to the friendship and cooperation between the two neighbouring countries. The paper says, the friendship treaty was drafted in a way as to prepare full ground for all-sided cooperation between the peoples of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

Since then we witnessed that the friendship between the peoples of these two neighboring countries has been developing in the interests of peace and security of the region, adds the paper.

In the longstanding friendship relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union no event, whatever small and negligent it may be, has ever taken place to damage or undermine the good and friendly relations existing between the two countries. Both countries have fully adhered to principles underlying the Afghan-Soviet friendship treaty.

Admittedly, during all these years the party, government and people of the Soviet Union have assisted the governments and people of Afghanistan in various aspects of their life. With the help of the Soviet Union not only a large number of [word indistinct] development projects were undertaken and completed but also a large number of students and personnel were (?sent) to the USSR to receive technical training and advanced education in various institutions of higher learning of the Soviet Union. In various economic, social and cultural projects were trained a large number of Afghan skilled workers who later took over the work of Soviet experts upon the completion of the respective development projects. Kabul NEW TIMES points out that the Soviet-trained Afghan personnel and skilled workers upon their return home together with the bulk of the workers trained here by the Soviets constituted a driving working force in the country.

They joined forces with the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan in helping the people carry on their struggles against the exploitative ruling circles and the feudal order and colonialism. The friendship ties and good neighbourly relations between the two countries took a new turn and a new landmark with the victory of the Sawr Revolution and especially its new revolutionary phase. The Soviet aid to the government and people of Afghanistan has substantially given a good impetus to the development of Afghanistan.

A large number of new agreements, protocols and treaties were signed between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union in various fields of development including agriculture, education, communication, irrigation, water and power and mines and industries, concludes Kabul NEW TIMES.

AFP: AFGHANISTAN TO OPEN CONSULATE IN TASHKENT

BK271610 Hong Kong AFP in English 1552 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] New Delhi, 27 Feb (AFP)--The Afghan Government will open a new consulate in the Soviet city of Tashkent, diplomatic sources said here today. There has, however, been no official announcement to this effect, the sources said. The Afghan Embassy here neither confirmed nor denied the report. The Afghan Government has also decided to set up diplomatic missions in Angola, Syria and Mozambique, the sources here said.

AFP: SOVIET SUPPLY ROUTES INTO AFGHANISTAN CHANGED

BK271510 Hong Kong AFP in English 1501 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] New Delhi, 27 Feb (AFP)--The Soviets have diverted their military supply routes to Afghanistan due to insecurity of roads in the Afghan provinces, diplomatic sources said here today.

The supply route from the Soviet border to the two rebel-dominated provinces of Herat and Qandahar had been diverted from Towraghondi to Termez, the sources said, but did not elaborate. There have been several cases of road sabotage and rebel rocket attacks on Soviet and Afghan military convoys in recent weeks, earlier reports had said.

Tight security continues to be in force in Kabul with tanks and armoured personnel carriers patrolling the city streets after dusk, the sources here said. Units of the army were still positioned in the city and searching of cars were continuing, the sources said. The security measures were clamped early this week following a rebel call for a general strike and demonstration on February 22-23 to commemorate last year's Kabul uprising against the Soviet military presence. The sources here reported bombing of the old part of the Qandahar city and said fighting was still continuing in the city and its suburbs.

2,000 KHALQ, ARMY, CIVIL SERVICE MEMBERS ARRESTED

TA261545 London BBC World Service in English 1500 GMT 26 Feb 81

[From "Radio Newsreel"]

[Text] While President Babrak Karmal of Afghanistan has been attending the Soviet party congress in Moscow, reports from his country suggest that it is still in a state of turmoil as a result of the Soviet military intervention. Most reports about the situation in Afghanistan filter through to Pakistan and India. The latest concern a wave of arrests in Kabul, and Mark Tully reports from Delhi that diplomatic sources there have confirmed the stories emanating from Kabul.

[Begin recording] The arrests apparently took place over a 4-week period spanning the end of January and the beginning of this month. The total number of those arrested is uncertain but diplomats quote one estimate of 2,000. The report from Kabul itself says (?most of) those arrested were army officers and civil servants. The army officers are believed to have belonged to the Khalq faction of the ruling party that is opposed to Premier Babrak Karmal's own Parcham faction. Khalq is still very influential among Afghan Army officers.

Ten senior officials of the Ministry of Information and Culture were also arrested. They included one of the most senior officials of radio Afghanistan. Those arrested were taken to the notorious Pol-e Charkhi jail on the outskirts of the capital.

The report from Kabul itself speaks of cells in the jail normally holding 50 prisoners, holding 150. The arrests may have been part of the government's successful attempt to forestall strikes and demonstrations which rebel Muslim groups had called for last weekend to mark the anniversary of last year's general strike. Another suggestion is that the arrests were connected with a recent wave of killings of party members, army officers and civilians. The report from Kabul does not indicate how many of those arrested are still being held, but diplomats in Delhi say many seem to have been released after interrogation. There have been no reports of executions. [end recording]

RAFI' ATTENDS GDR ARMY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

LD012210 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 1 Mar 81

[Text] The 25th anniversary of the formation of the GDR Army was celebrated this evening in a reception at the Intercontinental Hotel.

Brig Gen Mohammad Rafi, minister of national defense; Brig Gen Gol Aqa, chief of political affairs; a number of generals and officers of the armed forces; a number of high ranking government officials; and some ambassadors and military attaches from friendly countries in Kabul participated in this reception, which was given by the GDR military attache in Kabul.

NEWS EXCHANGE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH HUNGARY

LD010540 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 1 Mar 81

[Text] Kabul, 28 Feb (BAKHTAR)--An agreement on exchange of news and information was signed between the BAKHTAR news agency and the Hungarian News Agency here today. The agreement will enable both sides to exchange news and information of mutual interest through teletype as well as mailed bulletins and photos.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1981-1982 BUDGET REPORTED

BK010704 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1750 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Excerpts] On 28 February, the union budget for 1981-82 was presented to Parliament, reports All-India Radio. Finance Minister R. Venkataraman put forward the budget proposals in the Lok Sabha. In the Rajya Sabha, a copy of the budget was placed on the table of the house.

Following are highlights of budget 1981-82 as reported by PRESS TRUST of INDIA:

The finance minister estimated that the overall budgetary gap at existing rates of taxation will be rupees 1,810 crores. He estimated the total receipts for 1981-82 at rupees 23,061 crores and the total expenditure at rupees 24,871 crores. Receipts from market loans are estimated at rupees 2,800 crores. Small savings would yield rupees 1,250 crores next year, compared with rupees 1,100 crores in the current year. External assistance note of loan repayments is estimated at rupees 1,379 crores.

Fiscal deficit in 1981-82 must be kept within tolerable limits, the finance minister said, adding that taxation must be used judiciously so as not to fan the flames of inflation. To facilitate investment in industry, promoters are being allowed to hold equity higher than the 40 percent limit during initial stages of the project. The finance minister cautioned that inflation had not been overcome and it was essential to evolve a strategy by both demand management and higher productivity. Industrial production is likely to show a growth of about 4 percent; this compares with a decline of 1.4 percent in 1979-80. The import bill for crude oil and petroleum products is likely to reach rupees 5,600 crores in 1980-81. A higher subsidy on fertilizers of 479 crores as against rupees 466 crores is being provided. An ambitious programme is envisaged for the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Oil India for oil exploration. It is expected that foreign companies to be selected for oil exploration will commence work in the second half of 1981-82 on a production sharing basis.

The finance minister said that a credit of rupees 800 crores has been taken for receipt from the sale of the special bearer bonds in the next financial year.

Venkataraman announced that a national bank of agricultural and rural development will be established as an apex institution to meet the credit needs of rural community. A bill to this effect will be introduced shortly. On the programme for establishing regional rural banks, he said that, as against 60 such banks at the end of December 1979 and an estimated 100 such banks by the end of March 1981, it was proposed to increase their number to 170, covering 270 districts by the end of the sixth plan.

Venkataraman announced wide ranging measures to encourage the flow of savings into the financial system and increase the availability of funds for industrial investment. The finance minister said that it has been decided to raise the interest rates on maturities from 1 and up to 5 years. An announcement to this effect is being made by the reserve bank. The interest rate paid on deposits above 1-year maturity and up to 2 years will be raised from 7 percent at present to 7.5 percent. The rate paid on deposits above 2 years and up to 3 years will be raised from 7 percent at present to 8.5 percent. The rate paid on deposits above 3 years maturity will be raised from 8.5 percent at present to 10 percent. The finance minister hoped the wide ranging measures announced would help to encourage the flow of savings and increase funds for industrial investment. The higher budgetary deficit of rupees 1,975 crores in 1980-81 (as against budgeted rupees 1,445 crores) was because of larger support for state and central plans, he added.

Venkataraman said that towards developing adequate communication facilities in the north-east it has been decided to take up 6 national highways with a total length of 1,700 kilometres, at a total cost of rupees 70 crores. It has also been decided to establish a more direct connection from Nowgoing to Dimapur on national highway number 36 at a cost of rupees 16 crores. Certain missing links on the road running along the Indo-Bangaldesh border in Meghlaya will be completed at a cost of rupees 26 crores. Railway facilities in this area are also being augmented. In this context he also referred to the third level air service which has already started functioning in the northeastern region.

The finance minister said that the budget for 1981-82 provides for a higher subsidy on fertilisers of rupees 679 crores as against rupees 400 crores in the current year. Reflecting objectives, priorities and programmes of the sixth plan, the annual plan outlay for agriculture in the central and state plans has been stepped up to rupees 1,047 crores from rupees 925 crores in budget estimates for 1980-81. The finance minister said that it is proposed to add 2.5 million hectares under irrigation in 1981-82. The outlay on minor irrigation will be rupees 301 crores compared with rupees 200 crores in 1980-81. For the national rural employment programme rupees 180 crores is being provided in the central plan and this will be matched by an equal amount from the states.

Telecommunication tariff has been revised in the 1981-82 budget to yield a revenue of rupees 35.78 crores in a full year.

Bhutan will receive assistance amounting to rupees 49.81 crores from India under budget estimates for 1981-82. This includes rupees 24 crores for the Chukha hydroelectric project. The current year's total assistance to Bhutan amounts to rupees 41.13 crores as per revised estimates.

The budget also provides rupees 20.62 crores for aid to Nepal as against rupees 14.22 crores in revised estimates for 1980-81. For Bangladesh, the budget includes assistance of rupees 2.52 crores (rupees 2.11 crores as grant and rupees 41 lakhs as loan) as against rupees 1.88 crores in revised estimates for 1980-81.

The total plan provision in the budget both on the central and state accounts, runs to rupees 9,771 crores as against rupees 8,416 crores in the current financial year. The largest single investment in central plans is for industry and minerals at rupees 2,449 crores, higher by rupees 210 crores on the current years outlay.

The budget of 1981-82 showed an increase of rupees 400 crores in the country's defence budget, raising it from 3,800 crores for 1980-81 to rupees 4,200 crores. While maintaining overall expenditure, expenditures of raise 17 per rupee on defence like the previous year, [as received] the finance minister has provided an extra rupees 400 crores to meet requirements of defence "in these difficult times." The army as usual will receive the lion's share of the budget allocation of 2,376.54 crores while the air force would be provided rupees 991.88 crores and the navy rupees 298.97.

Under budget provisions India proposes to spend more than rupees 9.16 crores on a special programme for Indian technical and economic cooperation with developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Principal beneficiaries of the programme are Afghanistan, Kampuchea, Laos, Liberia, South Pacific lands, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Zanzibar, South Yemen and the Seychelles. India's contributions to United Nations in 1981-82 would be over rupees 2.86 crores, the same as in the current year. Rupees 18.70 crores are proposed to be spent on the acquisition of immovable property for Indian diplomatic missions abroad.

AGHA SHAHI INTERVIEWED ON RELATIONS WITH INDIA

BK011700 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Mar 81

[Text] Foreign Minister Agha Shahi has reiterated that the Simla agreement provides for the progressive normalization of relations between Pakistan and India. He said that several steps have been taken under this agreement and that some of them are very significant.

In an interview with an Indian news magazine, the NEW DELHI, he described as wrong the impression in India that the Simla process has come to a standstill. In reply to a question, the foreign minister stressed that India should spell out four things to convince Pakistan of her sincerity. These are: to reiterate that the Indian Government is not unmindful of Pakistan's concerns about the situation in Afghanistan; that Pakistan need not be apprehensive about its eastern border at this time; that India realizes Pakistan's need as a nation to arm itself; and also that it needs to modernize its forces, in view of India's own program of modernization and greater resources.

Mr Agha Shahi made it clear that Pakistan does not want arms parity, nor is it going to enter into an arms race with India. Neither is Pakistan manufacturing nuclear weapons. He said Pakistan is ready to hold talks with India, to exchange mutual reassurances on the nuclear question.

Replying to a question about Pakistan's stand on the Kashmir issue, he said that Pakistan's reference to this issue at international forums should not be taken by India to mean that Pakistan does not want friendship with India, or that Pakistan is trying to raise the Jammu and Kashmir issue at the international level. He said: We have often made it clear that until the two sides reach a settlement on this issue, it is permissible for both countries to refer to what had been their historical or tradi ional position.

OPPOSITION SPECIFIES MEASURES AGAINST REGIME

BK271434 Hong Kong AFP in English 1410 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] Islamabad, 27 Feb (AFP)--An uneasy calm returned today to the Pakistani cities of Lahore and Karachi after massive arrests yesterday of opponents of President Ziaul Haq, and student clashes which left one dead and 10 wounded.

But a new trial of strength with the military regime loomed tonight as opposition parties, which have proclaimed "civil disobedience" until martial law is lifted, insisted a new meeting in Lahore would go ahead as planned.

The opposition's tactic seemed to be to embarrass authorities by getting as many militants arrested as possible, though officials favouring a return to democracy today felt it lacked enough clout at present to topple General Haq.

A total of 87 people, according to officials, and about 200 according to opposition spokesmen, were taken overnight to Lahore's Kot Lakhpat prison for holding a meeting of the democracy restoration movement of nine banned parties. But Begum Bhutto, widow of executed former Premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was allowed to return home to Karachi after being arrested at Lahore and expelled from Punjab Province, the ASSOCIATED PRESS of PAKISTAN news agency reported.

Both Begum Bhutto and her daughter Benazir, 28, had been banned from Lahore for 3 months, and several leaders of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), which they head, were being held. Gen Ziaul Haq said yesterday before the Lahore arrests that about a dozen politicians had recently been arrested. Gen Ziaul Haq later flew to Jidda, Saudi Arabia, to take part in Islamic attempts to halt the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq.

Later, opposition party spokesmen said 35 political leaders and 50 lawyers were among 300 people at the Lahore meeting who decided to let themselves be arrested. The lawyers included the president of the Lahore appeal court lawyers association, Rafiq Chauhan. The opposition also appealed for a boycott of Pakistan's national holiday on March 23, and for strikes if Gen Ziaul Haq did not announce the organising of free elections.

Party spokesman warned those cooperating with the present regime they would have to account for their actions in accordance with the Constitution after the return of civil rule. Present victims of repression would receive "just compensation," the spokesmen added. The opposition warned that copies of any censored papers next Monday would be burned in the streets, and lawyers practising at the Lahore bar would strike.

In its response the government, trying to contain the agitation without fuelling it by spectacular repression, banned a national doctors congress due at Rawalpindi next week, and indefinitely extended winter university vacations in Baluchestan.

According to observers today, the government remained in control of the situation, and growing agitation in universities and political circles still did not seem to have mobilised the illiterate masses. Bloody clashes at Karachi University yesterday were meanwhile between rival student groups. There is rivalry between anti-government left-wing students and right-wing Moslems from the well-organised Islami Jamiat-e Tulaba movement, which criticises the regime but also fights the regime's opponents.

Antiregime Measures Unheeded

BK0210O8 Hong Kong AFP in English 0959 GMT 2 Mar 81

[Text] Islamabad, 2 Mar (AFP)--Lawyers boycotted courts in the Punjab today and burnt copies of censored newspapers as part of protests to back demands for a return to civilian government in Pakistan. But the lawyers were the only group to respond to a call on Thursday by the opposition parties' Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) for a day of protest throughout the Punjab, early reports indicated.

Police were out in force in Lahore, provincial capital of the Punjab, but there were no reports of violence outside the high court during the lawyers' protest. Elsewhere in the city, scene of political demonstrations last week, shops and businesses were open as usual and the situation was calm. Here in the capital and in Rawalpindi it was similarly quiet.

Meanwhile a strike of doctors entered its second week today, despite the release of arrested ringleaders and reports that the government was ready to meet their demands for improvements in the hospitals sector. An official spokesman said the situation in the hospitals was "well under control", while the government-controlled Pakistan TIMES indicated that "the wave of unrest which has rocked the educational institutions throughout the countries has subsided".

BANI-SADR SCORES MAJLIS BILL FAVORING RAJA'I

NC281324 Paris AFP in English 1318 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Text] Tehran, 28 Feb (AFP)--President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr today strongly criticized a bill which would put Premier Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i temporarily in charge of three vacant top ministerial posts.

The foreign, commerce, and economy and finance portfolios have not been assigned because of differences between Mr Bani-Sadr and Mr Raja'i.

Under a bill presented to parliament Wednesday by 33 deputies, most of them members of the ruling Islamic Republic Party, responsibility will be passed to the prime minister.

The proposed law amounted to "ignoring the votes of the people who elected the president of the republic," Mr Bani-Sadr charged in a communique released here today.

"The proposal submitted to parliament will have very grave consequences for the country," he warned, as it "creates a new climate" which seeks to "begin a new level of attacks--in light of the current crisis, God knows where [this] will lead the Islamic Republic of Iran."

"The assembly must take into consideration the fact that solving the disagreement (between Mr Bani-Sadr and Mr Raja'i) does not imply taking away the president's rights," President Bani-Sadr said.

"Some time ago the Imam (Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni) solved the problem of choosing the three ministers. We acted according to this solution, but as soon as the imam took action, the draft law was submitted to parliament," he added.

The president, who gave no details of Ayatollah Khomeyni's solution, also said he had written the ayatollah about the issue and was waiting for his reaction.

Appeal to Khomeyni

LD281723 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Text] President Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr issued a statement today on the plan recently submitted to the Islamic Majlis about the appointment of supervisors for ministries that do not have ministers as yet:

In His exalted name. The plan submitted to the Majlis will have very dangerous consequences for the country. It ignores the votes of a nation who elected a president. The Council of Ministers should at least act in coordination with the head of the executive branch, it should not be opposing him. In the present crisis, and with this kind of factionalism, how can one carry the burden of responsibility? They intend to start another round of opposition by creating the atmosphere for it, and in the present critical situation only God knows what they will do to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

They said: It is a lie and no plans have been submitted to the Majlis to eliminate [hazf] the president.

The honorable Majlis should note that depriving the president of his legal rights is not the way to resolve lack of agreement. In addition to other dangers, this procedure will discredit the vote cast by the nation and will endanger the foundations of this republic.

Some time ago, the imam put forward a solution for the appointment of three ministers and it was implemented. At the time when the imam took this step, this plan was submitted to the Majlis, and I have been writing to the imam every day, waiting for his excellency to take steps.

[Signed] The president, Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, 28 February 1981.

COUNCIL DISCUSSES WAR, UPCOMING MEDIATION TALKS

LD272138 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] The Supreme Defense Council held a session tonight. According to a Central News Bureau correspondent who attended the session, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Majlis; Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, the prime minister; Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moselmin Khamene'i, the imam's representative at the council; Colonel Fallahi, the acting chief of the joint staff; General Zahir Nezhad, the commander of the ground forces; Colonel Fakuri, the minister of defense and the commander of the air force; 'Ali Akbar Parvaresh and Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Montazeri, representatives of the Islamic Majlis at the Supreme Defense Council; and Morteza Reza'i, the commander of the guards corps, were present. Issues connected with the war and defense of our Islamic homeland's borders were discussed.

According to our correspondent, at this session, which lasted until midnight, the visit of the At-Ta'if conference representatives to Iran was discussed.

Khamene'i on Session

GF280830 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Excerpt] Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Khamene'i said that the issue of the delegation due to arrive in Tehran today was among those discussed by the Supreme Defense Council.

On the effect the delegation's visit will have on the Iraqi regime's aggression against Muslim Iran, his eminence said: The delegation's visit is being made to hear Iran's stand on this military aggression. It is clear that the views of the officials of the Islamic Republic are those that have been announced frequently in the past. We do not have a new view and we will so inform the delegation.

Asked about the Supreme Defense Council's view on whether the delegation will succeed in its mission, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i said: What is the meaning of success here? It is natural that they will come to listen to our point of view and we will acquaint them with it.

His eminence was asked: Iran did not participate in the At-Ta'if conference on orders from the leading imam. Could you explain why Iran has agreed to the delegation's visit to Tehran?

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i answered: The delegation's visit has nothing to do with the At-Ta'if conference. Participation in the conference had its meaning and acceptance of the delegation's visit has another meaning; the two cannot be reconciled. This delegation is coming to Iran to hear our views on Iraq's aggression against our court. Therefore, the delegation is coming to listen to our view and, after it leaves, any decision it makes is up to it. But, accepting such a resolution is up to us. At that time, we will see whether we agree or not.

ISLAMIC MEDIATION DELEGATION HOLDS TALKS IN TEHRAN

Arrival of Committee

LD281112 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Excerpt] According to a Central News Bureau correspondent, the plane carrying the delegation investigating the war imposed by the Iraqi regime on Iran landed at Mehrabad Airport at 1305 today. The members of this delegation were welcomed at the airport by President Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr; Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i and his deputies; Colonel Fakuri, minister of defense and commander of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and several ambassadors from Islamic countries.

The delegation, which includes the presidents of Guinea, Pakistan, Zambia [as heard and Bangladesh; the PLO leader; the prime minister of Turkey; the foreign ministers of Turkey, Malaysia, Senegal, Guinea, Bangladesh and Pakistan; and Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, will meet with the responsible authorities of our country during its stay in Iran.

Hani al-Hasan Arrives

GF271639 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] PLO Central Committee member brother Hani al-Hasan arrived in Tehran from Europe this morning. He will participate in the meetings of the seven-man committee that is due to arrive in Tehran tomorrow.

It is worth noting that the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have frequently announced that there will be no negotiations with any foreign officials for a reconciliation and cease-fire as long as there is one Iraqi soldier on the land of our dear Islamic homeland. Both the defense and foreign committees of the Majlis reiterated this stand in a joint statement yesterday.

New PLO Ambassador Arrives

LD281742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Text] According to PARS, the new PLO ambassador to Iran arrived in Tehran today, accompanying Yasir 'Arafat. Salih az-Zawawi, who is the new PLO ambassador to Tehran replacing Qadi al-Husayni, was the former PLO ambassador in Nairobi.

First Round of Talks

LD281724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Text] According to a report by a Central News Bureau correspondent, members of the delegation investigating the war imposed on Iran by Iraq arrived this afternoon for their stay in Tehran's Esteqlal Hotel. According to the report, a number of brothers and sisters who had been expelled from Iraq gathered in front of the hotel and chanted slogans against Saddam, addressed to the delegation: Saddam must know that the delegation that has come to Iran will be of no use to him, because the Iranian authorities and the imam will never negotiate with Saddam! Death to Saddam, death to the hypocrites of the Muslim people! Conciliation with Saddam is death for the Islamic movements!

According to our correspondent's report, at 1600, after 2 hours of rest, the delegation investigating the war imposed on Iran by Iraq visited the headquarters of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran for preliminary discussions with the responsible authorities.

Members of the Supreme Defense Council were also present. The delegation ended the first round of discussions at 1830 and then heeded the call for evening prayers.

According to a press correspondent's report, following the first round of the delegation's negotiations with the Supreme Defense Council, which ended at 1830, the second round of negotiations resumed after a short break and is still continuing.

According to a PARS report, the delegation investigating the war imposed on Iran by Iraq has appointed Habib Chatti as its spokesman.

Meeting With Bani-Sadr

LD282102 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Text] The probe delegation investigating the Iraqi-imposed war against Iran arrived in Tehran today and was officially received by Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president; Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, the prime minister; military commanders and the [word indistinct] ambassadors in Tehran. According to PARS News Agency, this delegation held talks with the members of the Supreme Defense Council of the [words indistinct] second round of talks with Iranian officials today. The members of this delegation will meet with Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, tomorrow.

The members of the (?probe) delegation to investigate the Iraqi-imposed war against Iran are composed of the president of Guinea, the Gambian president, the president of Bangladesh, the Pakistani president, the prime minister of Turkey, the leader of the PLO and the secretary general of the Islamic summit, as well as the foreign ministers of Turkey, Senegal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Malaysia. The secretary general of the Islamic Conference was appointed as the spokesman of the probe delegation investigating the Iraqi-imposed war against Iran by the members of this delegation.

This delegation today met with the members of the Supreme Defense Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The visiting probe delegation, which arrived in Tehran today to investigate the crimes committed by the regime of Saddam against Iran, today started talks with the members of the Supreme Council of Defense. President Bani-Sadr, responding to the comment made by the Guinean president, who said whichever side wins the war the [words indistinct] said, and here is a quote: If we were at war as two nations, your comment was right. But the Iraqi Army did not attack Iran at the wish of its people. The nations of Iraq and Iran are faced with a deviating regime in Iraq. President Bani-Sadr also said on this issue that Satan separates people from [words indistinct] and Islam units, then said: The Satan always exists but--in his words--Iran as the first question asks for recognition and introduction of Saddam. Here lies the second request of Iran, Mr Bani-Sadr added: And that is the recognition of the aggressor and then punishing the aggressor as Islam has ordered us to do. At the end, President Bani-Sadr said: Iraqi claims regarding Iran's aggression are all baseless and groundless, and it was Iraq which launched all this aggression deliberately after the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran. The president of the Islamic Republic of Iran further said: The Iraqi Government dispatched saboteurs to the Iranian Provinces of Kordestan and Khorasan and also violated the articles of the 1975 treaty. President Bani-Sadr then said: In spite of Iran's call for unity of the Muslims, the Iraqi regime attacks Iran and the Iranians. In his words: We resisted this aggression with reliance on God and this resistance can contribute to the nation's path to rid itself from the domination of the superpowers.

Khamene'i on Talks

LD282318 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2056 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Interview with Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president and commander in chief, and Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council and Defense Council spokesman, conducted by unidentified reporters following 28 February Supreme Defense Council session in Tehran--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Bani-Sadr, considering the fact that you have clarified Iran's position, what effect do you think the arrival of the delegation investigating the war imposed by Iraq on Iran will have on the outcome of the war?

[Bani-Sadr] I said at the session that making peace with Satan is blasphemy.

[Question] Mr Khamene'i, would you please tell us what issues were discussed at this session? Would you summarize the issues please?

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. At this session, the guests wanted to tell us their views on the war imposed by Iraq on Iran and to hear our views; that is, to hear our precise proposals. Speaking for them, Mr Sekou Toure commented on the fact that this war is damaging Islam and the two countries involved. He said that it should end as soon as possible. In response, Mr Bani-Sadr stressed that before thinking about ending the war, the delegation should think about recognizing the warmonger and discovering who began this aggression. When we fight the aggressor and defend the rights of the oppressed, we are in fact defending Islamic values, which the delegation is also stressing. It is because of these Islamic values that the delegation is emphasizing peace.

His Excellency Sekou Toure agreed with these points and stressed that we should put forward definite solutions. Mr Bani-Sadr outlined a general solution in two or three points. One of these points was that the aggressor should be punished; recognized and punished.

[Question] How?

[Answer] The method was not discussed. These points were summarized by Mr Bani-Sadr--that the aggressor should be recognized and punished. The second point was that until all enemy soldiers are removed from our country we could not accept a cease-fire. The third point was that we did not intend to launch an aggression against Iraq. We accepted the 1975 treaty and have never violated it.

Mr Sekou Toure indicated that he would like Iran to make more precise and clear-cut proposals. He did not put forward any other solution. Of course, it was quite obvious that the delegation was affected by our points: that is, the members understood that if we spoke of continuing the war it was not because we sought war or that we were warmongers; rather, it was because we were defending an Islamic and humane value that will not allow the enemy to continue his aggression. This was quite clear, but at the same time they wanted us to put forward more clear-cut solutions that we did not provide. They proposed to end the session and continue the discussion at another session.

[Question] In light of your comments, Iran's position has not changed at all. Therefore, what effect do you think the arrival of this delegation will have on the outcome of this war?

[Answer] Of course, Iran's position has not changed at all and cannot change, since we are defending the right and cannot as a revolutionary nation submit to force.

In fact, the value of our Islamic revolution was one of the things stressed in the speech made by the Guinean president. His excellency said several times that our Islamic revolution was of great importance to Muslims. Regarding the effect that this delegation can have, I think that the least effect it can have is that it will be familiarized with the rightful positions of our nation and can come to understand why the nation of Iran and the revolutionary Government of Iran does not agree to a cease-fire or to the peace Iraq proposed for us.

[Question] Have the Iranian officials been able to clarify the position that Iran has taken and to show that Iran is right, and has the delegation accepted and announced who the aggressor is?

[Answer] Of course, we have been able to establish that Iraq is the aggressor. We have not as yet presented detailed evidence, but we have emphasized this issue and all of the evidence proves that Iraq is the aggressor. We told the delegation that we have the evidence to show. But the question should be put to them...

[Question] Mr Khamene'i, considering the points you have mentioned, do you think we will reach a solution?

[Answer] What kind of solution do you have in mind? If you mean, do they accept that we are right, I think that in their hearts they believe it and accept it. But to what extent this may influence their decision will depend on the characters of our guests. We have explained the issues quite clearly to them.

[Question] Will they have talks with Iraqi officials after their talks in Iran?

[Answer] I don't know.

[Question] They will have a meeting with the imam. Would you tell us what issues will be discussed in the presence of the imam?

[Answer] I do not think that they will have any discussions in the imam's presence. Obviously, the imam will give general guidelines, but I do not think that there will be discussions or negotiations.

[Question] They claim that they have come to Iran with proposals and solutions after the At-Ta'if summit conference.

[Answer] They have not put forward any proposals or solutions.

[Question] Have you discussed Iraq's proposals with this delegation? What are the proposals put forward by Iraq?

[Answer] Iraq has not yet given us any clear proposals but Iraq's view is clear. The members of the delegation have not said anything on behalf of Iraq.

Meeting With Khomeyni

GF011020 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 1 Mar 81

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, received members of the committee studying the war that Iraq has imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran this morning. The meeting lasted about 1 hour.

At the outset of the meeting, Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, introduced the committee members to the imam of the nation.

Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference, and Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure spoke. Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution, then delivered a speech that we will broadcast later in our newscast.

Khomeyni Speech

LD011435 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1106 GMT 1 Mar 81

[Speech by Ayatollah Khomeyni on 1 March to members of the Islamic delegation investigating the Iranian-Iraqi war, at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran--recorded; duration 22 minutes]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. While thanking the gentlemen for coming here to see Iran at close quarters and observe what the issues are in Iran--assuming that the gentlemen have the opportunity to do so and are able to distinguish between the unjust and one subjected to injustice, between the aggressor and one subjected to aggression--I would like to tell you, briefly, about the problems that have existed and still exist in Iran and the suffering that this nation has endured, but it would cause me to lose my health and the time available to you does not allow it either. Thus, I will only tell you about some of the issues. I hope that Muslims and, particularly the leaders of Muslims, will desist from using the Islamic shield as a cover for not implementing Islam's commands. They must think of Islam as it is and act on it. So far, the problem of Muslims, as well as that of the oppressed Islamic nations, has been the fact that their leaders have confined themselves to issuing Islamic slogans, and, under the cover of these slogans, have been carrying out other intentions. I do hope that the Muslim nations, particularly their governments, will stop issuing slogans and start adhering to intellect [sho'ur] and action within the context of Islam and the holy Koran.

You are visiting a country that has been repressed for 2,500 years; a country that was under the boots of tyrannical kings, acting in the name of justice, civilization and humanitarianism. You are visiting a country whose people wanted to free themselves from oppression and gain independence and freedom. This is a country whose people, during long years of repression and lack of freedom, had their lands plundered by agents of the superpowers, East and West, in the name of Islam and progress. The self-seeking desires of those dependent on the superpowers did not give our people any opportunity to breathe in freedom.

You are visiting a country that has given nearly 60,000 martyrs; that is left with families with nearly 100,000 disabled and nearly 50,000 orphaned. You are visiting a country that has witnessed such tragedies. You are visiting a country that has nearly 1.5 million war refugees; these are people driven from their towns and homes; a nation of refugees, who have been subjected to so much oppression.

You are visiting a country wherein the oppressors and the merciless, owing to their dependence on the big powers, managed to enter it, suddenly crossing our borders and having usurped some of our towns through oppression. They have either killed all of our young men in the fronts or captured them.

You are visiting a country whose nation, because it wants to serve Islam, wants to return to Islam and to cut off the hands of the big powers that, contrary to human and Islamic standards, have been busy with their activities here. This is a nation that wanted to eliminate a tyrannical government, replacing it with a government acceptable to it: a nation wanting to live under the banner of Islam.

Since the superpowers do not wish to see Islamic nations and governments established; since they are afraid of seeing nearly 1 billion Muslim people unite; since they are afraid of seeing them under the banner of Islam, they attacked us from all sides--a military attack, a coup d'etat plot and, recently, a military invasion directed by a lackey called Saddam Husayn.

You are visiting a country where the oppressed is facing the oppressor; the invaded is facing the invader--a people who are resorting to oppression and tyranny. You must not mention the names of the Iranian and the Iraqi nations; the Iranian and Iraqi nations are brothers. They spport each other, both nations being the enemies of the Iraqi Government. If you want to see Islam as something higher than mere slogans, you must go and see what has happened in our towns to our young people, our women, our children, our ruined towns; the evidence of the crimes committed is right here. If you have any intention of changing your position from Islamic slogans to Islamic intellect, if Islamic governments wish to change their position from that of slogans to intellect and facts and deeds, then they must abandon their self-motivated desires; they must abandon their oppression and join their nations.

If you stay here for a while and empty your ears of the propaganda against Iran, then, having stayed in Iran and having observed its problems and the Iranian nation's and government's intentions, you will see whether they want Islam and want to seek shelter under Islam, or whether they want to resort to factionalism or nationhood and then promote Iran to the detriment of the Arabs.

You and others who attended the At-Ta'if conference listened to Saddam for 80 minutes; during this 80 minutes, not even for 1 minute did he speak for the sake of God. If he did mention Islam it was an Islam presented to him from Europe and America, rather than the Islam that emerged from Medina and [word indistinct].

You listened to his nonsense for 80 minutes. Despite the fact that he is in our country--his troops are engaged in genocide in our country--yet he claims that Iran is the aggressor. You did not question him about Iran's aggression. Are we fighting on Iraqi territory or on Iranian territory? If we are fighting in Iran, then it is Iraq that is the aggressor. Should we one day attack Iraq, then it is we who would be the aggressor. However, if we are defending the nation's rights, Islam, the Iraqi people's rights and the Muslims, then the At-Ta'if conference must not remain silent. You must not think that our two nations are facing each other. The Iraqi nation's hatred of its government is greater than that of ours; for the Iraqi nation has lost many ulema, many young people, many old men, young men and children, and all of them by the hand of this corrupt regime. If you want to think of Islam, then you must rely on Koranic verses. It is ordered by the Koran that if a Muslim people--presuming it is Muslim--attacks another people, then all Muslims are dutybound to wage war against it. All you have to do is to adhere to this divine order; we do not expect you to do more.

You adhere to this order, according to which God has said that you and all Muslims should wage war against a Muslim nation that invades another one. See the aggression for yourselves; if you do not have the time, send your representatives to the border areas and the provinces subjected to their aggression.

Send them to the graveyards they created for us; ask them to see the graves of our martyrs; ask them to see the refugees, the oppressed people in the western and southern sectors. Ask your representatives to see these things and find out who the aggressor is. If you come to the conclusion that we are the aggressor, then wage war against us; but if you come to the conclusion that they have launched this aggression, then wage war against them.

Peace is meaningless between Islam and blasphemy. No Muslim should entertain the idea that peace should be established between Islam and Muslims and non-Islamic [states] and non-Muslims. It is God's order that must be implemented; all of us must adhere to the holy Koran. You must not think that there is a dictatorial government in Iran today; a government that could make peace with someone who is opposed by the nation. It is not a situation wherein a dictatorial president may enter into negotiations with others; or a dictator who could, contrary to the wish of the nation, take action. The people's verdict governs; here, it is the nation that controls the government; all of these organs have been chosen by the nation. Consequently, to violate the nation's will is neither appropriate nor possible for any of us.

If you have any mission concerned with extinguishing the flames of war, something hoped for by all Muslims, then you must put the aggressor on trial; you must prosecute the aggressor and you must get rid of these people who are in our country. You must demand that Saddam pull out of our country and have his troops stop their aggression. Once the aggression is ended, an international mission may come here. This international mission, which will be formed somewhere, should then investigate the crimes that have been committed. If we are the criminals, then we ought to be prosecuted; if it is Saddam who is the criminal, then he must be prosecuted. This is the Islamic path.

Islam has issued explicit orders to us: it has ordered us to unite and avoid discord, to abandon slogans and get together on the basis of facts. It has told us not to confine ourselves merely to gatherings and seminars, without putting them into action.

You must pay attention to this--this conference that was held in At-Ta'if: What did they do about the oppressed people here, the oppressed people in Palestine and those in Lebanon? What did they do for Muslims? Is it enough to simply get together, claim to be Muslims and shout about Islam? It was not only we who shouted; most of it was being done by Mohammad Reza; most of it is being done by Saddam; most of it is being done by the people who are right now inappropriately dominating Islam and the Islamic nations. However, it you really want to study the situation, if you have any good will, if you are here to extinguish the flames, then you must sit in judgment; you must visit the border areas; you must see both sides. You must take a look at nations; see for yourselves whether the Iraqi nation accepts this government. Then look at the Iranian nation and see whether it accepts this government; whether it accepts this president; whether it accepts this prime minister; whether it accepts the Majlis. If it is proven that these things are acceptable to these nations, then one may say these governments are lawful; otherwise they are unlawful. If, as claimed, governments should depend on their people to observe human rights, then the world must seek peoples' views. We are prepared to have you hold a referendum here; to have your observers here, to see whether the people accept the government, the Majlis and the president. Similarly, you should go to Iraq and, in the absence of bayonets and suppression, hold a referendum there as well and see for yourself whether the Iraqi nation, like the Iranian nation, accepts their government.

If the Iranian nation rejected the Iranian Government or rejected the president and the Majlis, then you must ask them to step aside, for it is the nation that must act.

However, if the nation did not reject them [words indistinct]. The same thing should apply there; you should hold a referendum there, asking the people whether they accept the party, whether they accept the present assembly, whether they accept this man Saddam, their so-called president. If they do, then (?discuss) it; if they do not, if we do not, if no one accepts him, apart from a clique, apart from America and the USSR...[Khomeyni does not finish sentence] If this is the problem, then your sessions have no effect; neither our statements nor yours would bear any fruit. All of us must come under the banner of Islam; however, not through slogans--rather, in fact and in truth. If we come under the banner of Islam truthfully, then we will be able to continue our activities. But, if it is simply ceremonies--one day formalities are adhered to in At-Ta'if and another day in Iran and then elsewhere--then the present state of affairs will continue, with Muslims remaining under foreign pressures. We will then remain oppressed and you too will remain oppressed to the end. The day when we manage to use the 1 billion people and our abundant resources, and awaken and find Islam, we can free ourselves from the domination of oppression, oppression by the big powers. It is when we adhere to Islam and obey God's order. If we follow God's order, then He will guide us. God bless you.

'Arafat on Khomeyni Meeting

LD011144 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Mar 81

[Excerpts] According to a report by a Central News Bureau correspondent, members of the delegation investigating the imposed war on Iran by Iraq visited Hoseyniyeh Jamaran this morning and met with Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At this meeting, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat first introduced the members of the delegation and then Ammed Sekou Toure, the president of Guinea and the delegation head, made a speech. He addressed the imam of the people, saying: We ask you to be kind to us, so that we can succeed in this mission. People are small and Islam is great. He added: We know that the struggle of Islam in Iran is a struggle for the prosperity of all Islamic nations. In another part of his speech, he said: We hope that we will succeed in this great mission to Iran for the sake of prayer, humanity, man and all people of various countries. We beg you be kind enough to help us to be successful in our mission.

At the conclusion of this meeting with the imam of the people, Yasir 'Arafat, in reply to a question from the Central News Bureau correspondent, who asked him his opinion of the talks with the imam, said: They were very good and I am optimistic. In reply to the question: Have you submitted any particular plans to the imam on behalf of the At-Ta'if conference?, he said: We have come to hear the imam's views.

Then Hani al-Hasan, another delegation member, in reply to our correspondent, said: We have received the text of the imam's message and we are now translating it, so that we may acquaint ourselves with the imam's views. In reply to the question: Has any particular suggestion or plan been submitted to the imam on behalf of the At-Ta'if conference?, he said: Yes, suggestions have been made but we are waiting to see the text of the imam's views.

According to the report by the Central News Bureau correspondent, during the delegation's journey to Hoseyniyeh Jamaran, revolution guards and people chanted the following slogans against Saddam and America: "Negotiations and peace are an American conspiracy;" "No conciliation, no surrender;" and "Fight against America."

Second Round of Talks

LD011842 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Mar 81

[Excerpt] PARS reports that the second round of talks between the delegation investigating Iraq's imposed war on Iran and Iranian officials, which opened at 1440 today, ended at 1745. Following this round of talks, Ziaul Haq, president of Pakistan, held a private meeting with Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president and commander in chief.

PARS also reports that Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, following the second round of talks, met today with Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the imam's representative at the Supreme Defense Council.

According to the report, simultaneously with this meeting Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization and the delegation's spokesman, took part in a press conference attended by local and foreign correspondents.

AFP on Meetings

NC010627 Paris AFP in English 0613 GMT 1 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Tehran, 1 March (AFP)--Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr yesterday rejected the idea of a cease-fire and urged the newly-arrived Islamic mediation commission "to identify the aggressor and punish him."

Iran's PARS NEWS AGENCY said the president had a "tight" exchange of words with Guinea's President Ahmed Sekou Toure, who is heading a nine-member mediation group that arrived yesterday on behalf of the Islamic countries.

President Sekou Toure was quoted as saying: "This war should end thanks to adoption of just and quick measures. The devil divides men, while Islam unites them."

President Bani-Sadr reportedly answered: "It is true that the devil exists, and we ask you to proclaim that he is engaged in this war. When you have determined who is the aggressor, punish him in accordance with Islam's principles and end his aggression."

Guinea's leader replied: "We are not here to answer your questions but to deliver the following message--the consequence of this war has been to give Israel an advantage by overshadowing the Palestinian question..once the war is finished, we will be able to help Afghanistan and Palestine."

Mr Bani-Sadr retorted: "Once justice has triumphed in this war, the questions of Palestine, Afghanistan and other oppressed nations will have been resolved."

He told the commission: "As long as an aggressor stays on our soil, we cannot accept a cease-fire." He also said Iran stands by the 1975 Algiers agreement in which Iraq accepted Iran's claim to one side of the Shatt al-'Arab waterway, but which Iraq denounced just before it invaded Iran.

(In Iraq, President Saddam Husayn said yesterday he would accept a cease-fire based on respect of Iraq's rights and sovereignty, apparently meaning sovereignty over the whole waterway).

In an interview by radio Tehran, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i, spokesman of revolutionary leader Ruhollah Khomeyni, said the Islamic delegation had not proposed a solution, and that Iran's position "has not changed and cannot change."

But the good offices mission served the purpose of acquainting the Islamic countries with Iran's viewpoint, he said.

Habib Chatti Interview

LD010915 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 1 Mar 81

[Text] Mr Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference and spokesman for the political delegation investigating Iraqi aggression against Iran, gave an exclusive interview last night to our Central News Bureau correspondent after this delegation met with the Supreme Defense Council. He answered several questions put to him by our correspondent.

In response to the question: What was the outcome of your talks today with the Iranian authorities?, Habib Chatti stated: Since the talks have not ended yet and will continue, the results will be known tomorrow. In the talks our objective in coming to Iran was made clear; also, Mr Bani-Sadr, the president, explained Iran's point of view and stand concerning the war.

Mr Chatti also added: Mr Ahmed Sekou Toure, the Guinea president, on behalf of the political delegation of the Islamic Conference summit, expressed the conference's anxiety over the continuation of this war and expressed the hope that with each other's cooperation he will find a solution to this problem.

In response to the question: What is your opinion on the future of the talks?, Chatti stated: I am optimistic about these talks because the Islamic spirit governs them, and in an Islamic atmosphere a suitable solution can always be found to problems and difficulties.

Further on Chatti Comments

LD011728 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Mar 81

[Text] Mr Habib Chatti, spokesman of the delegation investigating the war imposed by Iraq upon Iran, which has come to Iran on behalf of the Islamic summit in At-Ta'if, participated in an interview with a Central News Bureau correspondent following the meeting between members of this delegation and members of the Supreme Defense Council.

In answer to a question on how he evaluates the situation following the end of this stage of discussions with Iranian officials, he said: This stage is the beginning of the discussions. We shall go to Iraq from here, so that we can learn about the views of the officials of that country, too. Habib Chatti added: Then, the members of the delegation will organize a meeting and will analyze the views of both sides. After evaluating the results of the discussions at that meeting, the delegation will return to Tehran.

Then our correspondent asked if there is any hope that his efforts at mediation between Iraq and Iran will have positive results; Habib Chatti said: Yes, I hope so. We shall continue our efforts as well. The Central News Bureau correspondent asked whether the delegation presented a solution for the war between Iran and Iraq. The spokesman of the delegation investigating the war imposed by Iraq upon Iran replied: Not yet. Of course, after visiting Baghdad it is possible that we might present a solution to the issue of the war.

At the end, our correspondent asked Mr Habib Chatti whether, in his discussions yesterday, Mr Bani-Sadr had asked the delegation to identify the person or the state that had started the war and to punish him according to Islamic laws, and also what Mr Chatti's response to the president of the country was in this connection. He replied: As our discussions are completely secret, I cannot discuss the matter in depth or give you an answer.

Bani-Sadr Interview

GF020804 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Mar 81

[Excerpt] In an interview with a PARS correspondent, Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president and commander in chief of the armed forces, explained his views on the talks he had with Supreme Defense Council members and the delegation that has been commissioned to study the war imposed on Iran by the Iraqi regime. Answering the correspondent's questions, Dr Bani-Sadr said: We seek peace based on Islamic values, principles and goals. During these talks, the delegation members called for peace in the name of and for the sake of Islamic values. We told them that we seek peace. According to the saying of Imam 'Ali ibn Abu Talib, peace be upon him, we consider peace to be an honored law. However, the aggressor has violated this law of life. Thus, the best thing for them to do is to identify and name the aggressor, order him to stop his aggression and implement the judgment of the Koran in this matter, in which we are ordered to unite against the aggressor after identifying him.

In another part of the interview, the president said: Saddam Husayn has said that he will occupy more of our towns and will inflict more destruction on them if we refuse to accept the peace he has been trying to impose upon us. Our answer to him is that we and our people follow the method of Husayn ibn 'Ali, peace be upon him, whose blood reddened Iraq's soil. The imam, who is considered to be the symbol of resistance against injustice, oppression and falsehood, gained martyrdom to keep sublime human values alive. We shall do the same thing. We shall fall as martyrs one by one. We may all die, but the values for which we have fought will not fall. Saddam's threats will not frighten us.

Agha Shahi on Delegation

LD011810 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Mar 81

[Text] Pakistani Foreign Minister Agha Shahi took part this afternoon in an exclusive interview with a PARS correspondent and answered his questions regarding the outcome of talks relating to the war imposed on Iran by Iraq. Agha Shahi said in the interview that the Islamic delegation has no mediation role, for the Iranian Government does not accept mediation. We have come to Iran on a peace mission.

In answer to a question on the results of the talks with Iranian officials to date, he said: Views and proposals were raised at these meetings; the results of the talks will be clarified after the delegation's visit to Baghdad--from where it will go to Riyadh to hold a conference on the issues and proposals raised by Iranian and Iraqi officials on ending the war and establishing peace--and after yet another visit to Tehran and Baghdad.

In answer to a question as to whether the issue of Iraq's war against Iran was raised at the At-Ta'if summit, Agha Shahi said: Since the Iranian delegation was not present at this conference, we did not discuss this war there because we did not want, in the absence of an Iranian delegation, to raise a matter or a solution or to propose one. The main reason for the delegation's visit is the presence [as heard] of the Iranian delegation at the At-Ta'if conference.

In answer to a question as to whether the delegation was able to condemn the aggressor country, the Pakistani foreign minister said: If each member of the delegation were to make a comment as an ordinary individual it would be easy, but at present we have come to Iran on a mission to restore peace, and any comment made by the delegation might create the notion in the parties concerned that the delegation is operating in favor of one of the two countries.

Mujahidin Confer With 'Arafat

GF011818 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 1 Mar 81

[Excerpt] At noon today, a delegation representing the Ad-Da'wah Islamic Party in Iraq met with brother Yasir 'Arafat, the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and member of the delegation commissioned to study the war imposed on Iran by the Iraqi regime. The spokesman for the Iraqi Ad-Da'wah Islamic Party briefed brother 'Arafat on the measures of suppression, oppression and banishment carried out by the infidel At-Tikriti regime against the Iraqi mujahidin. The spokesman, who supported his statement with pictures, statistics and documents, added that during the past year alone, Saddam's regime killed and executed 100,000 Iraqi strugglers. The spokesman added that the Iraqi regime's suppressive measures have escalated to the extent that even women, children and old men are not spared. They too have been subjected to tyranny, injustice, imprisonment and execution. The spokesman stressed that the stand of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran does not represent the stand of the government and people of Iran alone, but also represents the claims of more than 60,000 exiled Iraqis and the claims of the helpless Iraqi people. Speaking to brother 'Arafat, the Iraqi spokesman added: We ask you, as a true revolutionary, not to deal with us in terms of international political principles and international relations; we call upon you to help our voice of truth to be heard throughout the world and to pressure Saddam's bloody infidel regime to change its stand on the oppressed Iraqi people and end the war he has imposed on the Muslim peoples of both Iraq and Iran.

Then, one of the Iraqi mujahidin spoke and said to brother 'Arafat: Oh brother Abu 'Ammar, I am a struggler and revolutionary just as you are, and my duty is to fight at your side against the Zionist regime and for the liberation of Palestine and not to be exiled by Saddam's regime to Iran after torture. The struggler then showed the marks that remained on his body after being tortured by the Iraqi regime to brother 'Arafat, and said that the torture carried out by Saddam's gang against the Iraqi mujahidin is much greater than that carried out by the Zionist entity against the Palestinian combatants. Seeing and hearing all this, brother 'Arafat could not prevent his tears of sympathy for the Iraqi brothers.

Delegation Departs for Baghdad

LD011736 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Mar 81

[Text] PARS correspondent reports that the members of the delegation investigating the war imposed by Iraq upon Iran left for Baghdad at 1858 today following a 2-day stay in Iran and meetings with the imam and the members of the Supreme Defense Council. At the airport, official farewell ceremonies were performed, and Mr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president of our country, together with the members of the delegation, reviewed the guard of honor. Then the president saw off the members of the delegation as they boarded the plane. Also present at today's farewell ceremony were Brigadier General Fallahi, acting chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces; Colonel Fakuri, minister of defense and the commander of the air force; General Zahir Nezhad, commander of the ground forces; and a number of other military commanders.

BANI-SADR SPOKESMAN ON 'MUTILATED' MESSAGE

LD281223 Tehran ENQELAB-E ESLAMI in Persian 18 Feb 81 p 12

[Unattributed report: "New Radio-TV Chief Stops Broadcast of President's Telegram to Ayatollah Lahuti"]

[Text] Following the incomplete broadcast by the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran of the message sent by President of the Republic and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr to Hojjat ol-Eslam Lahuti concerning the incident at Kuchesfahan, we contacted the president's office yesterday morning to find out the reason for this.

Head of the president's secretariat, Mr Taqavi, said: "I had previously asked Mr Larijani, head of the radio and TV, to broadcast the full text of the message from his excellency the president to Hojjat ol-Eslam Lahuti, but he said (and he had the text in front of him): 'I do not agree that the first sentence should be broadcast since, because of the prevailing atmosphere, it may cause trouble.' I then asked him to read the text to me, and after he had done so I said that I saw nothing at all wrong with broadcasting the whole text, and I explained that 'now that you have been chosen as head of the radio and TV, I recommend that you maintain your impartiality and broadcast the president's message exactly as written.'

"Mr Larijani then told me: 'Since you insist, I shall tell the executive representative on the radio-TV supervisory council to get in touch with you about this, and then tell me the result, and I shall act accordingly.'"

Mr Taqavi added: "The executive representative did not contact me, and when I contacted Mr Larijani today (yesterday) and demanded an explanation as to why the president's message had not been broadcast in full, he replied that it was past news time, that the message no longer had any news value and the matter was closed.

"Following contacts and discussions that took place yesterday (2 days ago) I told Mr Larijani that, if radio-TV is to maintain the dignity and status that the duties entrusted to it entail, it should not broadcast the message from the president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces in a mutilated form at its own whim, as His Eminence Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni indicated so explicitly and in such a dignified manner in his letter to the Majlis."

KHOMEYNI RECEIVES PROSECUTOR GENERAL 2 MAR

GF021052 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 2 Mar 81

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, leader of the nation and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, received the prosecutor general, Ayatollah Musavi Ardabili, this morning. Various judicial problems were discussed during this meeting.

Following his meeting with the leader of the nation, Ayatollah Ardabili said his eminence has issued the necessary directives in important fields.

RAJA'I RETURNS TO TEHRAN FROM KHORRAMABAD

LD271727 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Excerpt] The prime minister and the members of the Cabinet returned to Tehran this afternoon after taking part in the joint session of the Council of Ministers and reviewing a parade by members of the mobilization of the oppressed, which took place at the Khorramabad garrison.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF ISSUES COMMUNIQUES 419, 420

419: 27 Feb Skirmishes

LD281840 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Communique 419 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Muslim and militant compatriots of Iran: The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are faithfully and bravely fighting against the aggressive enemy on the battlefronts, in order to cleanse the soil of Islamic Iran. Here are some of the activities and details of the situation on various battlefronts yesterday:

Exchanges of artillery fire between the self-sacrificing forces of Islam and the aggressive enemy continued in all sectors of the Arvand Rud region. The artillery of the Ground Forces of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran fired upon enemy positions in Umm ar-Rasas, Saybah, (Syehan) and (Ad-Dubayd) in Iraq and inflicted damage and casualties on the enemy. There has been no report on the extent on the damage as yet.

On the Abadan front our combative forces opened fire on an enemy column, killing 15 Iraqi soldiers and wounding a number of others. On another front in this sector, the forces defending Islam opened fire on the positions of the aggressive enemy and destroyed some loading trucks, several other vehicles and a number of trenches and the personnel manning them. Yesterday, the enemy launched an artillery and mortar attack on our units in the Susangerd region and on the city of Abadan.

The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran opened fire on enemy positions in the region of (Wasiliyah) in Iraq and destroyed one warehouse, two ammunition dumps, one oil storage tank, two tanks and several slit and foxhole trenches.

In the past 24 hours on the southern fronts, 7 of our compatriots have been martyred and 25 have been wounded. The self-sacrificing personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran have crushed enemy positions near Khuninshahr with mortar fire and have inflicted losses on the Iraqi forces.

In the Saqqez region Islamic soldiers have destroyed the positions of outlawed armed groups and individuals and have inflicted numerous losses upon the assailants during joint operations.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

420: Fighting in South, West

LD011828 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Mar 81

[Communique 420 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Fighters in the battlefronts, together with all the valiant people of Iran, have sworn an oath upon the blood of the martyrs of the Islamic revolution that they will not stop defending the goals and holy aspirations of the beloved Islam and will guard every inch of the Islamic homeland until their very last breath. They will spread the light of our revolution on all the deserts of darkness with steadfastness and untiring resolve. Some of the operations and actions in the battlefields in the southern and western fronts of the country during past days are as follows:

1. As a result of fire from the brave units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Abadan and Khuninshahr fronts, 3 tanks, 1 antiaircraft gun, 5 loaders, 1 vehicle carrying ammunition, 1 vehicle carrying fuel, 1 ammunition depot, 1 military vehicle, 12 trenches and 3 observation posts of the enemy were destroyed and a number of personnel of the Iraqi Armed Forces were killed or wounded. In another operation carried out in the same region, 1 tank, 1 artillery piece, 1 mortar, and 1 enemy ammunition depot were destroyed and 10 of the aggressive Iraqis were killed and a number of them were wounded. On the Mahshahr-Abadan axis, as a result of fire from our heroic forces, one enemy tank and some vehicles were damaged and one ammunition depot of the Iraqi Armed Forces was completely destroyed.

2. The heroic forces of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran opened fire on enemy positions in the western part of Khuninshahr and inflicted some damage and casualties upon the aggressive Iraqis. The same fighters managed to open up mortar fire on Iraqi positions on the other side of the Arvand-Rud, to prevent enemy activity in that region.

3. One patrol of the defenders of the Islamic revolution penetrated Iraqi territory from some areas in the west of the country. They clashed with enemy forces and managed to destroy one tank and two vehicles belonging to the aggressive Iraqi Army, killing five members of the Iraqi Armed Forces and wounding a number of them. In this clash, one of our forces was captured and two of them were martyred.

4. In the Kan-e Sakht region, fighting continued between our forces and the enemy. Four trenches, one observation post and one mortar belonging to the aggressive enemy were destroyed.

5. As a result of enemy artillery and mortar fire upon the residential areas of Abadan, a number of homes, government buildings and shops were damaged; 3 of our Abadan compatriots were martyred and 17 were wounded.

6. A few Iraqi planes were observed violating the airspace of our border towns in the south and west of the country, but they were scattered by fire from antiaircraft units.

7. Eight of the brave fighters of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, personnel of the ground forces and navy, were martyred on 27 February on the path of Islam and the homeland, and assisted the revolution with their lives.

[signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

RADIO IRAN: SUGAR, MEAT BOUGHT FROM SOUTH AFRICA

NC271626 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] (Ahdaf) company, which belongs to Beheshti, Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Raja'i, signed an agreement with South Africa last week on the purchase of frozen chicken and meat. (?Representatives) of Mullah Beheshti and associates in Paris [words indistinct] had signed an agreement for the purchase of a considerable quantity of sugar from South Africa. On the basis of the agreement signed between Beheshti and associates and South Africa--with which the Islamic Republic denies having any type of economic relations--the name of the certificate of origin is altered in the bills of lading so that the workers at Iran's ports will not be informed of the true origin of the commodities. It is said that a large part of the purchases made by Beheshti and associates from South Africa is transported to Iran by (?Tholfan) lines.